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into the customs of the state; second, that in which a uniform system for both patricians and plebeians was evolved; third, the unification of Rome with Italy, and last, continuing to the time of Gaius himself, that of imperial unification. The text used is that of Krueger and Studemund; and some conjectural readings are added in the appendix.

The text of Gaius and Mr. Poste's translation are set out in parallel columns, and the commentary is interpolated at the natural divisions of the subject-matter. The translation is done in clear, terse English, and the force of the Latin seems not to have been lost. The commentary, too, shows at the same time the learning of the author and his proficiency in the use of his mother tongue, for it is clear, readable, and interesting. A chronological table of events important in the development of Roman law is prefixed to the translation and commentary, and an excellent index to both text and commentary is supplied at the end.

THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

By John A. Fairlie. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905. pp. xi, 274. 16mo.

In his preface to this volume the author expresses his surprise that "no comprehensive and systematic work on American national administration" has as yet been published, since, in his opinion, the problems of administration, as distinguished from the problems arising from the operation of the legislative and judicial branches of the government, are the "important problems of the present." One might possibly be led from this to infer that the main purpose of the volume was to contribute something in the way of original discussion to the administrative problems which are to-day vexing students, writers, and statesmen. Outside, however, of the first two chapters, on the President, little of this sort of thing is attempted. The book is, in short, simply a detailed exposition of the functions of the administrative officers of the United States and of the organization of the administrative departments. The first chapter on the President discusses the development of the President's power of appointment and removal, and of his ordinance power, particularly from the aspects in which those powers merge with and partake of the nature of the legislative and judicial functions. There are short chapters on the relation of Congress to the Administration, and on the constitution of the Cabinet. The remaining two-thirds of the volume are devoted to a detailed account of the organization of the Departments, prefaced in each case by a brief historical summary. The chapters are admirable in arrangement, and their information exhaustive; no departmental functionary is too humble to have escaped the author's notice. The book fills a distinct need, and should prove of much value for speedy reference.

THE HINDU WILLS ACT (Act XXI of 1870), with which is incorporated the Probate and Administration Act, with elaborate notes and commentaries. By Mahendra Chandra Majumdar. Calcutta: Sanyal & Co. 1904. pp. lvi, 824. 8vo.

A codification of any branch of the law invariably creates a demand for a work of comment and annotation as an aid in interpreting and applying the bare skeleton of the statute. To satisfy such a demand is the aim of the present work. The book opens with a brief preliminary statement of the causes and conditions which led to the passage in 1870 of the Hindu Wills Act, extending to the native races of India rules and regulations similar to those which govern testamentary disposition in England. Then follows a commentary which takes up each section of the Act in order, compares it with the law in England, and illustrates its practical application by a review of the English and Indian cases.